

Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day

A New Breed of Hawkers

by A S M Nurunnabi

They are a bunch of travelling young hawkers, distinct from the general run of hawkers on the city streets. They remain all the time on their feet in the battle for existence. On the one hand, they hold a small tray containing packets of cigarettes, chewing gum and lozenges, the other hand is kept free to hold the rod while hanging inside a bus. They leap on passing coaches and buses and then begin chanting their selling calls: "Does anybody need cigarettes, lozenges or chewing gum?"

But these selling calls are uttered in a low voice, since it is their experience that a high-pitched voice is not favoured by the bus conductors and they are then likely to be thrown out of the bus. Generally the bus conductors regard them as a nuisance but the travelling passengers tend to take a softer view.

This breed of hawkers generally takes position at the various bus stands on the Dhaka-Aricha Highway, on the speed breakers along the way or near the faulty bridges on the route. At these places, the long-haul buses generally slow down and taking advantage of this, these puny soldiers battling for existence leap up on the footboards of these buses. They remain undaunted by reports of frequent accidents and keep running with energy and drive from one side to another of the bus flowing its on.

These little roving hawkers are mostly of the age group of 6-12 years. At this tender age, they are supposed to go to schools, but the cruel fate has thrust upon them the heavy burden of supporting the families they belong to.

One of them is called Joynal. At present he is a resident of a slum at Nabtinagar. Since his father has married a second time, he has no endearing relations with his step-mother. So he tries to fend for himself, and this requires

him to work hard from morning till evening. Others of his kind include Kalam, 9, Karim, 11, Jahan, 10, Babul, 13. All of them work at the helm of their respective families affairs to keep their bodies and souls together. To win their bread, they all struggle hard at all times, braving various odds at every step.

From them it was learned that there are about one hundred and fifty travelling hawkers on the Dhaka-Aricha route. With their small income, they feed their respective family members averaging seven to nine.

Lately they have been facing a problem in their profession. The Roads and Highways Department are gradually doing away with the speed-breakers on the road. As a result there has been a slump in their income, since there is no question of climbing up a running bus.

One Ramzan who poses himself to be the leader of the group demands that the speed-breakers near Savar, Nabtinagar and Kalampur should be rebuilt. He also complains that the bus conductors sometimes maltreat them; they sometimes take away cigarettes from them without making any payment. Sometimes they are pushed out of the running buses. So their plea to all those who travel on the route is "Please do not be too hard on us."

Normally their profession is beset with many difficulties, apart from the rude behaviour of the bus conductors. They sometimes fall victims to bullying. Particularly in the rainy season, their troubles know no bounds. Keeping their wares safe from rain and at the same time mastering the art of climbing up a slowly moving bus put a high pressure on their energy and skill. Yet in this hostile environment, they go on fighting.



Weather

Dry spell to continue

Dry weather is likely to prevail over the country during the next 12 hours ending 6 pm.

The Met Office forecasts night temperature is likely to remain nearly unchanged over the country during the period but may rise in the subsequent 2 days.

The temperature may register a fall at the end of the week, it added.

Country's highest temperature 27.6 degrees Celsius was recorded at Teknai and the lowest 8.3 degrees at Sri Mangal.

The sun sets today at 5.17 pm and rises tomorrow at 6.38 am.

The maximum and minimum temperatures and humidity recorded yesterday in different parts of the country were:

City	Temperatures in degrees Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	6 am	6 pm
Dhaka	26.8	10.3	75	71
Chittagong	26.0	12.9	82	61
Cox's Bazar	26.5	15.0	67	69
Sylhet	27.5	12.6	79	65
Rajshahi	25.4	10.3	69	79
Rangpur	25.9	11.8	84	73
Dinajpur	26.5	10.6	76	73
Barisal	26.0	10.5	85	86

WANTED

A services company working with 100% expatriate companies is looking for a lady executive. Candidate must be fluent in English (speaking and writing), and must also have proficiency in computer operation. Salary is negotiable. The company provides lunch and transportation (pick-up and drop). Interested candidates should apply with CV and other supporting documents to the following address:

The Advertiser
G. P. O. Box No. 2719
Dhaka - 1000

WANTED
FINANCE MANAGER

Marie Stopes Clinic Society, an affiliate of Marie Stopes International, London, working in the area of reproductive health invites applications for the post of a Finance Manager.

The responsibilities involve development of manual and computerized accounting records, preparing budgets and forecasts as well as regular management accounts and records.

The successful candidate will be a Chartered Accountant with at least 5 years of relevant experience. He/she will be experienced in computerized accounting packages and spreadsheet applications, should be fluent in English and able to develop an accounting team.

This is a senior management position within the organization and only candidates of high calibre and with experience at a senior level are encouraged to apply.

Applications with full CV and most recent salary package should be sent to the Country Director, Marie Stopes Clinic Society, 67 Elephant Road, Dhaka 1205, by 6th January 1995.



Friday

Morning Session

8:00	Opening
8:15	Religious programme: Aloc Dishari
8:40	Film Show: Wind in the Willows
9:00	Chetana
9:30	Cartoon show: Batman
10:00	News in English
10:05	Moner Mukure
11:15	Film show: Taaragan
11:40	Health programme: Prescription
11:55	Musical programme: Maram
12:30	Closing

Evening Session

3:00	Opening announcement
3:15	Cartoon film: Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
3:40	Movie of the week: Battle of the Buge
5:10	News in Bangla
5:25	Sports Programme
6:00	Open University
7:25	Musical programme: Malancha
8:00	News in Bangla
8:25	Jannabhum
8:30	Comedy series: Perfect Strangers
9:00	Magazine Programme: Charupath
10:00	News in English
10:30	Drama series: Law and Order
11:10	Khabar/The News
10:40	Closing

Mostafiz greets Turkish FM

Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman has felicitated Murat Karayalcin on his appointment as the foreign Minister of the Republic of Turkey, reports BSS.

In the message of felicitations, Mostafiz said, "Please accept my sincere felicitations on your appointment as the Foreign Minister of the Republic of Turkey. I am confident that the bilateral relations and friendly cooperation existing between our two brotherly countries will grow further during the term of your office."

Certificate-giving ceremony

The certificate-awarding ceremony of the 13th Flight Safety Officers course of the Flight Safety Institute of the Bangladesh Air Force (BAF) was held at the BAF conference hall at the Dhaka Cantonment yesterday, reports BSS.

Chief of the Air Staff Vice Marshal Altaf Hossain Chowdhury attended the ceremony as chief guest and gave away the certificates.

Flight Lt Shahid M. Jalal of the Bangladesh Air Force was adjudged the best student-officer and awarded the Chief of Air Staff Trophy.



Last minute campaign during the Dhaka University Teachers' Association polls at the university club in the city yesterday.

— Star photo

Dhaka Film Festival begins today

The 3rd Dhaka International Film Festival, organised by the Rainbow Film Society, begins in the city today, reports UNB.

Prof Zillur Rahman Siddiqui will inaugurate the 9-day festival at the Central Public Library auditorium at 4:30 pm.

China, Egypt, France, Germany, Japan, India, Iran, The Netherlands, Russia, UK, USA and the host Bangladesh will take part in the festival.

The festival will be dedicated to the founder-fathers of films Lumiere brothers on the eve of the centenary of world cinema.

Film personalities from various countries, including Yves Thoraval, Helene Moshiri, Hall Levy, Shahid Jamal, Nirmal Chandra Dhar and PN Upadhyaya are expected to participate in the festival.

The festival venues also include German and Russian Cultural centres, Alliance Francaise and Indian High Commission auditorium.

Festival director Ahmed Muztaba Zamal read out a written statement at the conference which was attended, among others, by Dr Muniruzzaman, Prof Kabir Chowdhury, Kishwar Kamal, Dr Inamul Haque, Quratul-Ain-Tahmina and Abdus Selim.

The festival also includes three seminars, special tribute to Frank Capra of USA and Guru Dutta of India and a retrospective to Subhash Dutta of Bangladesh.

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